

Top Secret

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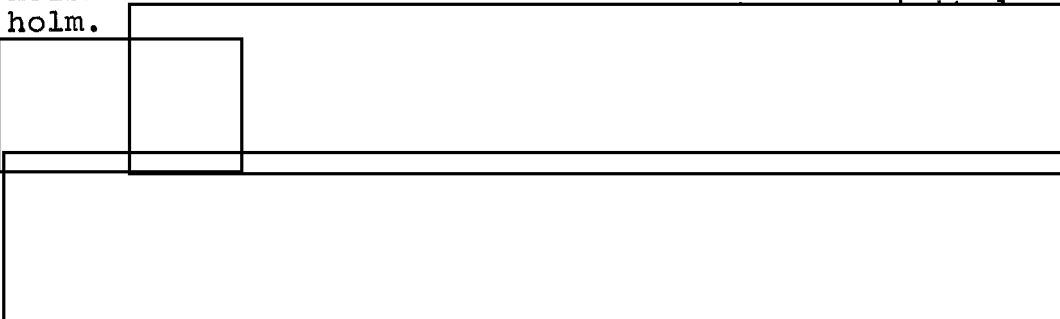
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Vietnam: The Viet Cong are energetically seeking out new prestige and support abroad.

National Liberation Front (NLF) officials in Scandinavia have been actively promoting the establishment of new NLF information offices in Oslo and Helsinki to add to their offices in Paris and Stockholm.

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If Oslo approves, Norway would be the only NATO country other than France to have an NLF office.



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There appear to be no legal bars in Norway or Finland to an NLF information office. The Communists would be acting as private persons and would have no diplomatic status. The NLF clearly is hoping for limited recognition through this effort, however.

The Viet Cong have been unusually active abroad during the past few months. They have dispatched good will delegations to all of their Communist allies in Europe and Asia and to several "third force" countries in the Middle East and Africa in a search for additional foreign support for their political program and bargaining position in Paris.

(continued)

The North Vietnamese also have been trying to bolster Viet Cong stock abroad through their own contacts with Communist and "third force" countries. India has received particular attention in this regard. There have been no additions since last summer, however, to the 24 countries that have recognized the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government.

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Lebanon: The government fears the coming Arab summit conference will make a number of decisions that will significantly increase Lebanon's involvement in the Arab-Israeli struggle. Its greatest concern is that the conference may order the transfer of Lebanon's Mirage squadron to either Syria or Egypt. Beirut is also disturbed over the possibility that foreign Arab troops will be ordered stationed on Lebanese territory. French restrictions on the use of the Mirages outside of Lebanon will probably prevent their transfer. The government may, however, find it difficult to refuse the stationing of troops on its territory.

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